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Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[1] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[2] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] which recognize persons with disabilities as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, which recognized the collective responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level, stressing the duty of Member States to achieve greater justice and equality for all, in particular persons with disabilities,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities are often subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination and can be largely invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting that the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is both a human rights treaty and a development tool,

[1] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).
[2] Resolution 48/96, annex.
[3] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

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provides an opportunity to strengthen the policies related to and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, thereby contributing to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Noting also that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular for developing countries,

Concerned that the lack of data and information on disability and the situation of persons with disabilities at the national level contributes to the invisibility of persons with disabilities in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that is inclusive of persons with disabilities,

Recognizing that the upcoming high-level plenary meeting to review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in 2010 is an important opportunity to enhance efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals for all, in particular for persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities through the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[4]

2. *Urges* Member States, and invites international organizations, regional organizations, including regional integration organizations, financial institutions, the private sector and civil society, in particular organizations representing persons with disabilities, as appropriate, to promote the realization of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, inter alia through explicitly including disability issues and persons with disabilities in national plans and tools designed to contribute to the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Urges* the United Nations system to make a concerted effort to integrate disability issues into its work, and in this regard encourages the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to continue working to ensure that development programmes, including Millennium Development Goals policies, processes and mechanisms, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

4. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that their international cooperation, including through international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

5. *Calls on* Governments and United Nations bodies and agencies to include disability issues and persons with disabilities in reviewing progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to step up efforts to include in their assessment the extent to which persons with disabilities are able to benefit from efforts to achieve the Goals;

6. *Calls on* Governments to enable persons with disabilities to participate as agents and beneficiaries of development, in particular in all efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals, by ensuring that programmes and

[4] A/64/180.

policies, namely eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of policymaking and development, which is critical to informing policymakers on the situation of persons with disabilities, the barriers they may face and ways to overcome obstacles to the full and equal enjoyment of their rights, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for all, including persons with disabilities, and to their socio-economic advancement;

8. *Encourages* international cooperation in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, including through global partnerships for development, which are crucial for the realization of the Goals for all, in particular for persons with disabilities;

9. *Encourages* Governments to develop and accelerate exchange of information, guidelines and standards, best practices, legislative measures and Government policies regarding the situation of persons with disabilities and disability issues, in particular as they relate to inclusion and accessibility;

10. *Calls on* Governments to build a knowledge base of data and information about the situation of persons with disabilities that could be used to enable development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation to be disability-sensitive, in particular in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, and in this regard:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General to disseminate widely and promote the use of the Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics[5] and the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses[6] and to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building of Member States, in particular to developing countries;

(b) Encourages Member States to make use of statistics, to the extent possible, to integrate a disability perspective in reviewing their progress towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals for all;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit information on the implementation of the present resolution during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly within the report requested by the Assembly in paragraph 13 (b) of its resolution 63/150.

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[5] ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Y/10.

[6] ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.2.